

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03637 091552 Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 015637

R 091514 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8364
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3637

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ESTIMATE OF LEBANON SITUATION

1. MINISTER OF POLICE (AND CABINET ARAB EXPERT) SHLOMO HILLEL MAY 9 GAVE CHARGE HIS ESTIMATE OF SITUATION IN LEBANON. WHILE HILLEL SPOKE ON PERSONAL BASIS, WE SEE NO REASON TO DOUBT HE REFLECTED GENERAL GOI VIEW.
2. HILLEL SAID AIM OF LEBANESE ARMY WAS TO CONCENTRATE ACTION IN CITY OF BEIRUT, WHICH IS OF SYMBOLIC AS WELL AS PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE AND WHERE ARMY CAN PERFORM TO BEST ADVANTAGE. FEDAYEEN, ON CONTRARY, AIM AT AROUSING ACTIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF LEBANON IN ORDER TO INDUCE ARMY TO FRAGMENT ITS FORCES, LEAVE CAPITAL, AND FIGHT WHERE ADVANTAGES LIE WITH FEDAYEEN. HE BELIEVED ARMY HAD MADE RIGHT CHOICE IN LOOKING ON BEIRUT AS KEY TO SITUATION. HE BELIEVED MOST PROBABLE OUTCOME WAS ANOTHER COMPROMISE BETWEEN GOVT AND FEDAYEEN WHICH WOULD LEAVE GOVT IN A BETTER POSITION THAN BEFORE.
3. CHARGE ASKED IF WITHDRAWAL OF ARMY FROM BORDER AREAS DID NOT CONCERN ISRAEL; THAT IS, MIGHT NOT FEDAYEEN TRY TO PROVOKE ISRAEL INTO SOME ACTION ACROSS BORDER IN ATTEMPT TO BRING ARMY BACK FROM BEIRUT AND MIGHT THIS ALSO NOT GIVE EXCUSE TO SYRIA TO ALLOW SAIQA OR EVEN SYRIAN ARMY TO INTERVENE ON GROUNDS GOL
SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 03637 091552 Z

HAD LOST CONTROL? HILLEL DOUBTED THIS WOULD HAPPEN. FOR ONE THING, HE SAID, FEDAYEEN THEMSELVES WERE BUSY IN BEIRUT AND NOT LIKELY TO SPREAD THEIR STRENGTH AND ATTACK ISRAEL. MORE-OVER, HE CONTINUED, IF ANY SUCH PROVOCATION OCCURRED, GOI WOULD

LOOK AT OVERALL SITUATION AND CONSULT ITS INTERESTS BEFORE FALLING INTO ANY TRAP. AS FOR SYRIA, THOUGH SAIQA MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO INCREASE ITS INTERVENTION, HE THOUGHT SYRIAN GOVT WOULD BE SLOW TO INTERVENE. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, PRO- FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS AMONG LEBANESE ARE ABLE TO OPPOSE AND LIMIT GOL ACTIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS. INTERVENTION BY SYRIA WOULD TEND TO UNIFY THESE DISPARATE LEBANESE GROUPS, ALL OF WHOM PREFER LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE TO SYRIAN DOMINATION.

4. HILLEL' S OVERALL ATTITUDE WAS CALM AND COOL AND HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT GOI YET CONSIDERS SITUATION IN LEBANON CRITICAL FROM ITS POINT VIEW.
ZURHELLEN

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ
<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1973
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV03637
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730559/abqceabr.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI ESTIMATE OF LEBANON SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE, IS
To: STATE INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005